

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0882

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI CU
SUBJ: CUBAN BORDER GUARD-US COAST GUARD COMMUNICATIONS

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS (MINREX) ACTING DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS ZAMORA AND CAPTAIN ARMANDO URRRA, CHIEF OF BORDER GUARDS INFORMATION (INTELLIGENCE) SECTION, INFORMED USINT OFFICER, APRIL 5, OF ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW BORDER GUARD TELEX FACILITY. URRRA STATED THAT BORDER GUARD HEADQUARTERS CAN NOW BE REACHED BY COAST GUARD TWENTY-FOUR HOURS PER DAY BY REQUESTING SERVICE FOR CUBA AND ASKING FOR NUMBER 598 RPT 598. URRRA EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT WOULD INSTALL TELEX FACILITY IN ITS HEADQUARTERS, BUT PENDING INSTALLATION, HE POINTED OUT, REGULAR COMMERCIAL TELEX FACILITIES CAN BE USED BY COAST GUARD.

2. URRRA SAID THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE, FROM CUBAN POINT OF VIEW, AT LEAST FOR INITIAL PERIOD, TO HAVE COAST GUARD MESSAGES PASSED IN SPANISH SINCE BORDER GUARD DUTY PERSONNEL ARE NOT YET BILINGUAL. URRRA ASKED THAT, WHEN AND IF SEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT INSTALLS IN-HOUSE TELEX FACILITY, TELEX NUMBER BE FORWARDED TO CUBANS SOONEST. HE POINTED
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OUT THAT AFTN TRAFFIC HAS BEEN UNSATISFACTORY DUE TO SPORADIC MONITORING AND ERRONEOUS TRANSLATIONS.

3. REGARDING BROADER QUESTION OF SHIP-TO-SHORE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COAST GUARD AND BORDER GUARD (DISCUSSED IN JANUARY TALKS), URRRA STATED THAT BORDER GUARD COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIANS ARE WORKING UP STUDY OF CUBAN COMMUNICA-

TIONS POSSIBILITIES IN BOTH VOICE AND CW, BUT THEY WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE COAST GUARD COMMUNICATIONS STUDY POINTING UP FREQUENCIES USED BY USCG. IF, AS THEY SUSPECT, CUBAN AND US FREQUENCIES ARE INCOMPATIBLE, CUBANS WILL HAVE TO OBTAIN NEW FREQUENCY CONTROL CRYSTALS.

4. URRA POINTED OUT THAT TELEX LINE USED BY CUBANS PASSES THROUGH JAMAICA AND CANADA, AND SUGGESTED THAT ANY PRIVILEGED TRAFFIC BE PASSED THROUGH USINT.

5. ON OTHER PENDING COAST GUARD BUSINESS, URRA STATED THAT ALL PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR ARRIVAL OF MARATHON YACHT CLUB AND THAT CUBANS ARE ONLY AWAITING LISTS OF BOSTS AND CREWS. ON HEMINGWAY FISHING TOURNAMENT (MAY 19-21), BORDER GUARDS WILL SOON BE SUPPLYING TO USCG COORDINATES OF DESIRED ENTRY CORRIDORS AND RECEPTION POINT.

6. BEGIN COMMENT: IF FEASIBLE, WE RECOMMEND INSTALLATION OF DEDICATED TELEX FACILITY IN SEVENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT. THIS COULD PRODUCE MORE EFFECTIVE AND RAPID COORDINATION OF SEARCH AND RESCUE ACTIVITIES - TO THE CLEAR ADVANTAGE OF US NAVIGATORS. REGARDING BROADER COMMUNICATIONS PLANNING FOR SHIP-TO-SHORE CONTACT (PARA 3), ALTHOUGH WE RECALL THAT USCG, IN JANUARY, SAID THAT IT WOULD REPLY TO INITIAL CUBAN SUBMISSION (SEE HAVANA 202), WE SEE NO HARM IN PROVIDING CONFIDENTIAL

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CUBANS FIRST WITH LIST OF AVAILABLE COAST GUARD FREQUENCIES.

7. FYI AT RECENT GULF FISHING TALKS HERE IN HAVANA (SEE HAVANA 803 NOTAL), CUBANS RAISED TECHNICAL PROBLEMS POSED BY INABILITY OF THEIR OLD GULF FISHING FLEET TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH US SHORE FACILITIES. USDEL AGREED, THEREFORE, THAT POSITION AND CATCH DATA REQUIRED UNDER US FISHING REGULATIONS MIGHT BE COMMUNICATED CENTRALLY BY HAVANA FISHING AUTHORITIES TO US. IF PROCEDURE CAN BE COORDINATED ON BOTH US AND CUBAN SIDES, POSSIBLY BORDER GUARD-COAST GUARD COMMUNICATIONS LINK MIGH ALSO SERVE AS CHANNEL FOR PASSING FISHING DATA REQUIRED BY NMFS. END FYI.

3. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, ZAMORA ADDED THAT BORDER GUARD-COAST GUARD TELEX LINK WOULD MARK FIRST AND ONLY DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS LINK BETWEEN CUBAN AND US GOVERNMENTS. IT IS NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT AT LEAST SOME INDIVIDUALS ON CUBAN SIDE CONSIDER BORDER GUARD-COAST GUARD TELEX LINK TO BE EMBRYO "HOT LINE". END COMMENT.
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